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Letter dated 30 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to the latest incidents in the ongoing Palestinian terrorist campaign against Israel.

Shortly after 7 a.m. (local time) yesterday morning, Gilad Zar, age 40 and father of eight children, was driving near the Gitt junction when Palestinian terrorists in a parked car shot at his windshield, causing his vehicle to overturn. Two terrorists then got out, walked to Zar's car, and shot him repeatedly in the head at point-blank range.

Several hours later, Sarah Blaustein, age 53, and Esther Alvan, age 20, were killed when terrorists opened fire on their car as they travelled to Jerusalem to attend Zar's funeral. Four other passengers who were travelling in the car were wounded and evacuated to a hospital in Jerusalem.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's own political faction, Fatah, claimed responsibility for both attacks.

Also yesterday, two terrorists wearing belts packed with explosives approached Israeli soldiers at the Tufah crossing. One of the terrorists detonated his belt as he approached and the other hurled grenades. Two soldiers were wounded and evacuated to a nearby hospital.

Yesterday's attacks come just days after two car bombs exploded several hours apart in central Jerusalem. Just after midnight (local time) this past Sunday morning, 27 May 2001, a powerful car bomb exploded in central Jerusalem. Several individuals were taken to the hospital and treated for shock. Less than nine hours later, and just 100 metres away, a second car bomb, rigged with mortars, nails, bullets and other explosive materials, exploded on Jerusalem's Jaffa Street. The

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force of the blast launched seven mortar shells hundreds of metres through the city centre. Several people were injured by shrapnel and glass while more than 30 others were treated for shock.

All these attacks come in the wake of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's announcement last week that Israeli Forces would unilaterally cease all military initiatives against Palestinian targets and would henceforth only open fire in self-defence. This initiative, taken pursuant to the recommendations of the Mitchell Committee's report and intended as a first step towards the complete cessation of violence, was unequivocally rejected by the Palestinian side, which has responded by intensifying their terrorist campaign against Israel.

I should like to recall my previous letters, which detail the ongoing terrorist campaign against Israel, dated 25 May 2001 (A/56/80-S/2001/524), 18 May 2001 (A/56/78-S/2001/506), 11 May 2001 (A/56/72-S/2001/473), 9 May 2001 (A/56/69-S/2001/459), 1 May 2001 (A/55/924-S/2001/435), 23 April 2001 (A/55/910-S/2001/396), 16 April 2001 (A/55/901-S/2001/364), 28 March 2001 (A/55/863-S/2001/291), 27 March 2001 (A/55/860-S/2001/280), 26 March 2001 (A/55/858-S/2001/278), 19 March 2001 (A/55/842-S/2001/244), 5 March 2001 (A/55/821-S/2001/193), 2 March 2001 (A/55/819-S/2001/187), 14 February 2001 (A/55/787-S/2001/137), 13 February 2001 (A/55/781-S/2001/132), 2 February 2001 (A/55/762-S/2001/103), 25 January 2001 (A/55/748-S/2001/81), 23 January 2001 (A/55/742-S/2001/71), 28 December 2000 (A/55/719-S/2000/1252), 22 November 2000 (A/55/641-S/2000/1114), 20 November 2000 (A/55/634-S/2000/1108) 2 November 2000 (A/55/540-S/2000/1065).

Israel calls upon the Palestinian Authority to implement the recommendations of the Mitchell Committee and to abide by its commitment of 9 September 1993 to renounce the use of violence and terror and to control all Palestinian factions that engage in violent activities.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under item 179 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative